

CAUTION to the Good People of ENGLAND, about the Choice of Members for the Ensuing Parlia- ment.

Gentlemen,

IT is now fully seen, that notwithstanding the Mortification, which some were under during part of the *Late King's* Reign; yet they are now but the same Men, which they were in the Reign of *King Charles the II.*, when they ran down all that oppos'd their Designs, as *Fanaticks* or *Commonwealths-men*.

But never were Names more improperly applied, when those *High Taintiv-men* were truly posselt with that *Fanatick-fury* or *Madness*, with which they without colour reproach others. Nor can any thing contribute more to a *Commonwealth*, than the extravagancies of them, who by abusing the Favour of *Princes*, have render'd the Governments of some of them Grievous, and Insupportable; making very forward pretences of *Loyalty*, and vowing *Lives* and *Fortunes*, which they never intended to venture.

These Men are now especially the more dangerous, because those rights of *Sovereignty* which they ascribe to all *Kings*, are not only Inconsistent with the *Laws*, *Liberties*, and *Statutes*, of this or any other *Free Nation*, but with the Right of our present *King* and *Queen*: and the *late King* is evidently that *Unaccountable*, *Irresistible*, *Sacred Monarch*, whom they contend for.

To observe what Fears the *Papists* express at this time of Danger to the *Church of England*, which they were but lately pulling down as fast as they could, and of our falling into a *Commonwealth*, which the chief of their *Writers* have commended most; would induce one to believe, that *Church* and *Crown*, are, but the *Word* given the *Party*, and the *Passport* to their *Regiments* in the *Highlands* of *Scotland*; or rather an *Artifice* to *Lift Soldiers* for their *supposed King* of *Divine Right*, against him whom they call but *King in Fact*. And this they would have ignorant People believe to be the *Doctrine* of the *Church of England*. Thus, tho they dare not directly declare for the *Late King*, they prepare Men insensibly for him, and follow the steps of the *Observer*, and other *Hackney Writers* for *Rome*, who while *Papery* was getting within the Walls, alarm'd you against *Moderate Churchmen*, and other *Protestants*; but especially, the Men of *Forty One*, whom they had consiur'd up from their Graves.

You cannot but observe the *Emissaries*, and *Instruments*, who are again playing over the same Game at *Markets*, *Fairs*, *Churches*, and all Places of publick Resort. The Success which the *Knaves* have formerly had, gives them hopes again to make *Honest Men* Tools, to carry on their Work; and indeed, it is a melancholly Consideration to think, how many are now cheated in as gross a manner, as the *Romish Priests* impose upon their credulous Laity. Many of their *Hirelings* pass among you for *zealous Churchmen*, just as the *Papish Gentry* do for *Officers* of this *Kings Army*, by their *Scarlet* or *Blue Coats*, which is their common Disguise.

You, The good People of England, are in earnest in that Cause, which brought over His present Majesty. Remember His most gracious Declaration, which engaged your *Hearts*, your *Fortunes*, your *Lives*; nay, what is more, your *Reputations* and *Honours*, when the most eminent among you for *unswerving Loyalty*, condemn'd the Reproach of being accounted *Rebels* in the Cause of *God*, and your *Country*.

Nor did you fear to be thought *Commonwealths-men*, while you were so hearty in desiring that our present *Sovereigns* would accept the *Crown*, as an earnest of this *Nations Gratitude*, and *Love of Kingly Power*; while others, if they meant any thing by a *Regency*, but an Office under the *Late King*, commensurable at his Pleasure; were directly for a *Commonwealth*, with such another *Protector* as *Oliver Cromwell*.

This is little less than *Demonstration*, for this *Regency*, or *Protectorship*, which is the old *English word* for it, while the *Lovers of France* were for the *French word*; either was to be derived from the *Late Kings* Authority, or from the *Peoples*. If from the *Kings*, then his entire *Power*, or indivisible *Sovereignty*, would come back to him, when ever he thought fit to return, tho perhaps he could not depure another in his Absence, because the *Law* allows of no Act of *Royal Power*, but while a *King* is in Possession.

If it were derived from the *People*, this were a Government of their own Choice, without a *King*, and what is that, but a *Commonwealth*. Thus, this part of the Charge against Men moderate in all things, but in their Zeal for the *Protestant Religion*, and for this Government, falls upon their Accusers, who either would have the *Church of England* preserved by a *Papish King*, or the *Monarchy* by a *Commonwealth*.

Many of you, who rose in Arms to meet your *Great Deliverer*, while the Generality shew'd the like Disposition, have this for ever to stop their mouths, when they would accuse you of *Rebellion*; that some of them were *Rebels* by their own Confession, in *Levying War* against one, whom they acknowledg still to be their *King*, whilst you, at least acquit your selves before *God*, as you resisted not the *Power* which he had permitted or placed over you, till it wholly ceas'd to be any *Ordinance* of *God* or *Man*; and that he who had been your *King*, had lost both his *Name* and *Authority*.

That you may reap the full benefit of His Present Majesties most Gracious Declaration, while he was only *Prince of Orange*, I take leave to offer these *Cautions* to you, in Relation to that *Choice* which approaches.

1. To have a care of any Man, for whom you Men re-are courted by those who have not taken the Oath commend- of Allegiance to this King and Queen, being ed by them in Capacities which require it, or who decline who refuse all publick Employments to avoid it; or if they have the Oath taken the Oath, declare that it was with such Reservations, as leave room for Allegiance to the Late King. ance, &c.

2. By no means to chule the *Regency-men*, who were not only against the Government of our Present King and Queen, but by their unreasonable Loyalty to the *Late King*, whom they would not assist in his greatest Extremity; occasioned the delay of Relief to the poor *Protestants* in *Ireland*, and that Expence of *Blood* and *Treasure* which has followed it.

That this may appear to you more plainly, it is to be observed, That the loss of so much time, as was unnecessarily spun out in Disputes, was in it self but a small mischief in Comparison of the immediate and natural Consequences; in encouraging the *Rebels* in *Ireland*, who were ready to have submitted upon any Terms, till they found the Strength of their Party here, and making it needful for His Majesty to keep his

reign Troops to secure him against them, who were so fond of Allegiance to the *Abdicated King*; nor could he tell which of those, who had declared for him, were to be trusted against one whom many of them still look'd on as their King.

This is a true and just *Vindication* of His Majesties great Wisdom and Inclination to make His Kingdoms happy, and give Peace to *Christendom*! while some, out of labour to clear *Evil Instruments*, cast Reflections upon Him, contrary to that Character which all the World has conceived of Him. But as to them of the *Regency*, they were for it, either out of Principle, believing the *Late Kings* Royal Power to continue; or from *Design*, as they thought that side the Strongest; or that by joining with it, they might be considerable enough to be bought off, either way the *Late King* has been beholden to them; but neither our Present King and Queen, nor their People.

Desires
of the Bill
of Exclu-
sion.

3. You may consider, That they who opposed the Bill of Exclusion, generally did it upon a Principle of the unalterableness of the Succession, which is directly contrary to our Kings Title. Not but that some few of them are to be thought to have gone upon other Grounds, they having in all other things been always in the Interest of their Country.

Instru-
ments of
Violence
formerly.

4. You ought not to chuse any who were *Instruments of Violence and Oppression* in the two last Reigns. The men are known among you, they have left their marks in the ruin of many Families; and tho Death has put an end to the miseries of some of them, 'tis not so long since the Lamentations of their Friends, their Wives, their Children, struck through your very hearts, and you were your selves weeping Spectators of the inhumanities and butcheries under which they suffered.

Have a care lest you come into *Partnership* with their guilt, who made it dangerous to be an *Englishman*, or to appear for the interest of all *Protestants* in general, while they ridicul'd the very name.

Sons or Re-
lations of
them who
have got-
ten Wealth
or Honours
by the Spoil
of the Li-
berties &c.
Such as
are likely
to repeal
the Acts of
the last
Parlia-
ment.

5. Be cautious how you chuse the Sons or nigh Relations of them who got Riches or Honours by the Spoil of the Liberties of their Country; if their Fathers or near Relations are living, their dependance upon them is too great to permit them to enquire freely into those miscarriages which you complain of: if they are dead, their Memories or Estates which might be subject to *Attainders*, or *Confiscations*, to ease you of Taxes, will give the young men too strong a bias.

6. Take care lest you chuse such as may repeal the Acts of the last Parliament, either as disliking the matter of them, or questioning the Authority, which not only made an happy Settlement of the Crown, and well secured to you many Civil Rights which had been invaded, but freed you from the burden of *Chimney-money*; and eased many of your fellow *Protestants*, who had been severely prosecuted, to the weakening your hands against the common Enemy, and enriching only *Informers*, *Officers of the Spiritual Court*, *Clerks of the Peace*, and some greedy *Justices*.

Accessa-
ries to the
murders
of L. Rus-
sel, &c.

7. Be sure to avoid all *Judges*, *Lawyers*, *Sheriffs*, *Jury-men*, or others, who were accessory to the Murders of *Ld. Russell*, *Col. Sidney*, *Sir Tho. Armstrong*, *Mr. Cornish*, *Mr. Colledge*, or who by slighting the positive Proof against *Sir George Wakeman*, or robbing the City of London of its choice of *Sheriffs*, were means of stifling the Popish Plot, and turning the Plot upon *Protestants*.

Penfioners

8. *Penfioners*, who sold their Votes and their Country at certain Rates, according to the Reputation which each man had in his House, how smoothly soever they may have carried it since the Temptation has ceased, are never to be trusted, lest they sell you to France, or any Interest that bids most.

9. Promoters and Maintainers of the *Dispensing* or other arbitrary Power, Abhorers of Petitions, and modest Applications for obtaining the sitting of a Parliament, to enquire into the Popish Plot, ought to give very good Proofs of their Repentance before you chuse them for your *Representatives*.

Maintain-
ers of the
Dispensing
Power, &c.

10. Your sense of what you have suffered by the *Surrender* of Charters, how nigh you were to the loss of your greatest Civil Right, and how far the common people were excluded from Voting, may almost make it needless to caution you against *Surrenderers*, *Promoters* or *Advisers* of *Surrenderers* of Charters. How much soever the Threats and Solicitations of Lieutenants, Deputy-Lieutenants, Justices, Records and others, with face of Authority, may plead in excuse of well-meaning Country-men, not so well acquainted with the ends for which they were delivered up, nothing can lessen the Crime of such as pretend to represent the collective Wisdom of the Nation.

Some im-
mediate
consequen-
ces of this
choice.

11. It concerns you by this Choice from which His Majesty is like to form a settled Judgment of you, to represent your selves worthy of His most indulgent purposes; the fault, doubtless, will lye at your own doors, if you become not an happy People under him; which that you may be, you ought to take particular care, that no man may be chosen by you, whose business it has been, and therefore 'tis probable may be, to alienate your Affections from the present Government; which it behoves you to Support, as you would be free from the French Slavery and Dragons: The like Consideration should oblige you to avoid those who would separate the King from his People, or the Church from both, or from all other *Protestants* and *Protestant Churches*: How much soever particular Persons may profit by such Divisions, it is morally impossible that the Nation should not be weakened by them.

Gentlemen,

If you chuse Men of Fortunes and Reputations, and (where other Circumstances do not greatly over-balance) of good Families, with regard to the Cautions which I have offered, out of an unfeigned Love to my Country, you may well hope to revive the Honour of the English Nation.

I need not caution you against *Dissenters* from the Church of England, because how much soever you may have been imposed upon formerly by those of them who were *Papists*, they cannot now expect to be chosen: and tho some *Protestant Dissenters* may have interest enough for it, yet they will in prudence decline the competition with men of Moderation, who are for the good of the whole, before any Party or Faction; and if *Protestant Dissenters* stand to keep out others, you will have reason to be for them.

Neither need I mention other *Commonwealths men* than those of the *Regency*; for tho some men thought the faults of former Reigns might justify their successful endeavours to alter the Government then, yet their own experience of the necessity of *Kingly Power*, and the affection which they have ever since shewn for the English Monarchy, has clear'd them from that imputation now; and all others that way inclin'd, are as few and as inconsiderable, as the *Regulators* who went about for hire to settle Corporations, according to the Power first given by *Surrenderers*; for either of them to pretend to be chosen at this time, were a piece of Confidence which none but themselves could be guilty of.

In short; This Election will shew, Whether you are for *Papist* or *Protestant*, King James or King William; and should you find the effect of the worst choice, there would be small comfort in the excuse of Fools, That ye had not thought it.

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&c.

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